



Since 1868... 150 years and counting

## THE MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

Nº 1, 2019

# Africa Report

*With the people and for the people*



Paul Reilly on his way to visit families in Ethiopia.

**WALK THE TALK** in the footsteps of Jesus:

*“Lord Jesus, Teach me to be generous, To serve you as you deserved, To give and not to count the cost, To fight and not to heed the wounds, To toil and not to seek for rest, To labor and not to seek reward, Except that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.” (St. Ignatius of Loyola)*

The well-known Chinese proverb: “It is better to teach people to fish than to give them fish” is a maxim that resonates with many educators, parents, and all those entrusted with the ultimate responsibility to raise and train future generations to be self-reliant and live a dignified life. This maxim reminds us that empowerment is key to success, freedom and human dignity. Anytime we do it, we transform a human person to stand tall, to pursue life goals and achieve liberty and happiness.

Called to share in the mission of Christ, the Missionaries of Africa have embraced the task to work with and for the people of Africa for the past 150 years. Despite the positive economic windfall across the continent, Africa still faces daunting challenges to provide quality education, clean water, affordable healthcare for its vulnerable populations. By far its most affected people are women, children and the youth just to name a few. That is why, in dialogue with various communities across the continent, the Missionaries of Africa have been part of a winning strategy that gives hope, thanks to your support.

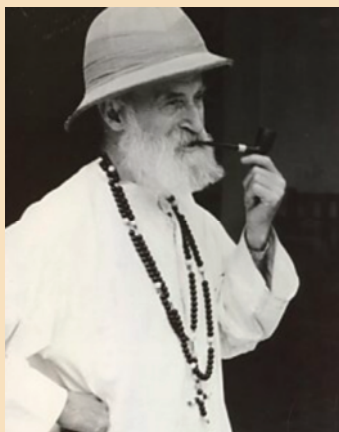
In this Africa Report we bring to you success stories of projects that empower and uplift young

people in Ethiopia, drinking water in rural Nigeria, furniture to improve education in Uganda.

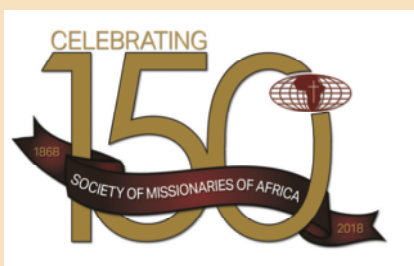
Thanks for your generosity.



**Rev. Barthelemy Bazemo, MAfr,**  
President of the Missionaries of  
Africa in the United States •



Missionaries of the 19th, 20th and 21st Century! On February 19th 1879, Leon Livinhac (left, from France) and his team brought the Gospel to Uganda. In the 1950's, 2000 Missionaries of Africa (MAfr), nicknamed 'The White Fathers', were working in Africa, like Aurelien Angers in Tanzania (from Canada). Nowadays, a new generation of Missionaries of Africa is serving in the African World. Anand (from India), Paul (USA) and Marcos (Mexico). Photo taken in Tunis, 2018.



Photos: MAfr & Paul Reilly MAfr



Visiting an Orthodox Ethiopian priest, Abba (Father) Paul Reilly, MAfr (California, USA). Paul was ordained a priest in July 2015 after years of formation in the USA, Great Britain, Mexico, Burkina, Ethiopia and Cote d'Ivoire. Paul is the director of a Youth Center in Adigrat, in northern Ethiopia.

## Since 1868, "with the People"

The Society of the Missionaries of Africa (nicknamed "the White Fathers") was founded in Algeria, in 1868 by Charles Lavigerie (1825-1892), Archbishop of Algiers, later on Archbishop of Carthage and Primate of Africa, and made Cardinal of the Church. The Society's Mission: To live the Spirit of Jesus and give witness to the Gospel in the African World. "Nicknamed the White Fathers?" Why? Lavigerie gave those young men entering the new Society of Missionaries some simple rules:

1. You will **dress yourself as the people**. From its very beginning, this new missionary group took the Algerian dress of the time, made of natural wool in the winter and of white cotton in the summer: the gandoura (tunic), the burnouse (a cape, a blanket) and the turban over a felt chechia (a red bonnet) with, as a religious sign, a rosary carried around the neck, in the style of the Muslim beads.

2. You will speak the **language of the people**. In Algeria, 150 years ago, the languages used by the people were Arabic and Kabyle. Later on, the Missionaries learned the languages of the peoples they were sent to, Luganda, Kiswahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Cinyanja, Cibemba, Dyula, Bambara, Hausa... "Speaking the language" became a MAfr hallmark.

3. You will eat the **food of the people**. (No choice! So far away from their homeland, in the 19th Century!)

4. The **"Rule of Three"**. Minimum of three in each team. It is as a community that you will live and give witness to the Gospel following the spirituality of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. No lone rangers!

5. Your teams will be international. From its foundation on, the Society had members from Europe (France, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Great Britain, Ireland, Poland, ...), from Africa (Algeria, Uganda, ... and now from 17 African countries), from the Americas (Canada, United States, later on Mexico and Brazil) and new members are joining from Asia (Philippines, India...).

# The AFRICA REPORT on a Project that we support in Ethiopia “Bright hope” for the Youth of Adigrat, Ethiopia



**Bruh Tesfa** is a youth and social center based in Adigrat, in Tigray, northern Ethiopia. Operated by the Missionaries of Africa with the support of the Catholic Diocese of Adigrat, we are a **multi-faith center**. **Our activities:** Tutorials in English, French and Maths. Computer classes. Resources and space to study in our library. Sports and martial arts. Music, drama and art clubs. We run two hostels, for boys and for girls, up to 30 students coming from remote villages scattered in the mountains. We support the hostel students (from Grade 12 into university).



In Tigrinya, the local language, **Bruh Tesfa** means ‘**bright hope**’. We aim to be exactly that to the young people in our area. We support them as they try to achieve their potential in difficult circumstances. We try to transform not only their lives but also the lives of their families and communities. We work hand in hand with the predominantly Orthodox Christian population, local religious leaders and civil and education authorities.

We strongly believe that **it is education that will empower the most disadvantaged members** of our society to combat the ignorance and poverty that binds them. We believe that by removing as many as possible of the obstacles to education, **especially amongst girls**, we will be able to uplift this generation and future ones out of poverty.

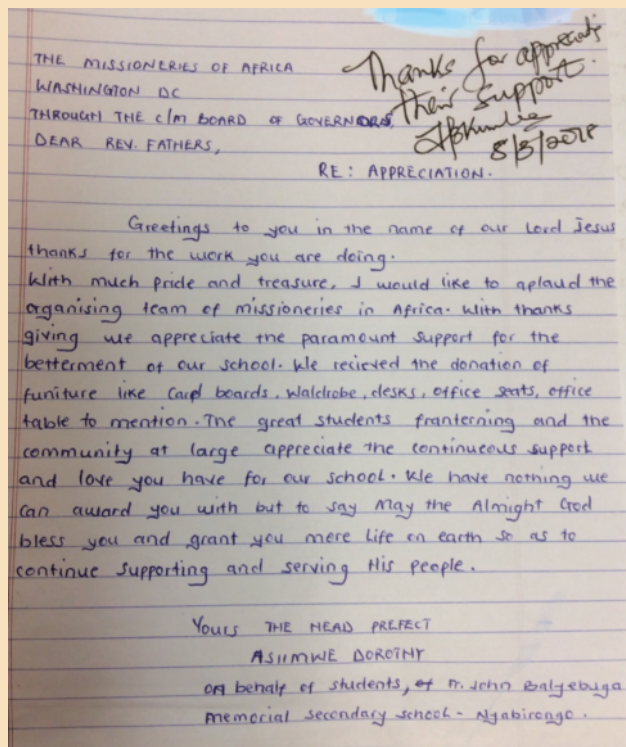
We aim to provide a beautiful space where children can develop **holistically** (that is physically, intellectually and spiritually) in an atmosphere of friendship, peace and joy into responsible and conscientious adults who will contribute positively to **Ethiopia’s continuing development**.

Paul Reilly MAfr •

Photos, from top:

1. Social Justice? Awareness and action against human trafficking.
2. Sports? Be yourself, learn to live with others.
3. Family life? Hand in hand with the families of the young men and women of the Center, Paul visits an Orthodox priest and his wife.
4. Education will empower the people and uplift them out of poverty.

## “We appreciate the paramount support for the betterment of our school”



To The Missionaries of Africa  
Washington, DC

“Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus. Thanks for the work you are doing. With much pride and treasure, I would like to applaud the organizing team of Missionaries of Africa. With thanksgiving, we appreciate the paramount support for the betterment of our school. We received the donation of furniture like bookshelves, 70 two-seater desks, office seats and tables. The students and the community at large appreciate the continuous support and love you have for our school. We have nothing we can award you with but to say: May the Almighty God bless you and grant you more life on Earth so as to continue supporting and serving His people.”

Yours, the Head Prefect,  
**Dorothy Asiimwe**, on behalf of the students  
of Fr. John Balyebuga Memorial Secondary School •



Photos: Fr. John Baptist Kule, Kasese Diocese.



**The AFRICA REPORT**  
**on a Project realized in Nigeria**

## **“Drinking water for rural people ”**



Photos: Fr. Kenneth Yilbial

Diocese of Shendam  
Dokan Kasuwa, Plateau State, Nigeria

“Our diocese was created some 10 years ago. It is a rural diocese with most people engaged in peasant farming. Only a few have well paid white collar jobs and this explain how much we are limited, as a Church, to undertake projects like this one. Our rural area has yet to become a Parish. It is a farming area with its population living without the basic amenities like water and light. However, the most needed is water which indeed sustains life of both humans and animals. When people drink from the streams around them, they often suffer from diseases therein. And mainly the women have to walk far distances to access water. Only a few have white collar jobs and salaries. With the money received from the Missionaries of Africa Development Office, we were able to dig a well, install pipes and a manual pump. Still in project, a catchment reservoir.”

**Fr. Kenneth Yilbial, Pastor •**

## Charitable IRA Rollover

### Help us continue our Mission in Africa!

#### *What is a Charitable IRA Rollover?*

- Charitable IRA Rollover is a permanent provision in the U.S. tax code for donors age 70 ½ or older to make a tax wise gift to non-profit organizations, including the *Missionaries of Africa*.

#### *Benefits of Charitable IRA Rollovers*

- Satisfies requirements for annual minimum IRA withdrawals.
- Avoids federal and in some cases, state income tax.\*
- Provides vital and ongoing support to the Missionaries and their mission in Africa.

#### *Guidelines*

- Donors age 70 ½ or older at the time of distribution.
- Gifts must be transferred directly from your IRA account to the *Missionaries of Africa*.
- Charitable gifts up to \$100,000 can be given each year.

#### *How to make a Charitable Gift?*

- Donors should contact their IRA Bank or broker/administrator to request an IRA distribution transfer to the *Missionaries of Africa*. Instruct your administrator to issue a check to:

Missionaries of Africa, Inc.  
Development Office  
1622 21<sup>st</sup>. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1003  
Any questions, please call our  
Development Office:  
1-877-523-4662

*\*The Charitable IRA Rollover is a federal law, consult your tax preparer for your state regulations.*

The Africa Report  
is published four times a year  
by the  
**Society of  
Missionaries of Africa, Inc.**  
1622 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1003  
(202) 232-5995

Series 10, Vol. 91  
No. 1, 2019

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- Join our Friends of Hope Monthly Giving Plan.
- Memorial Gifts in memory of a loved one.
- Celebrate a birthday, wedding or anniversary with a donation to our works in Africa.
- Donation of stock: appreciated securities, stocks, bonds or annuities provide the same benefit as a cash gift.
- Life Insurance - consider naming the *Missionaries of Africa* as a beneficiary.
- Bequests – an estate gift to the *Missionaries of Africa* will continue our mission works.

**For more information, contact:  
1-877-523-4662**

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